GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3070
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Impact of Groundwater Level on Drinking Water
Patel Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that decline in the groundwater level has led to drinking water problems in the country;
(b) if so, the details and the facts thereof;
(c) whether the Government has formulated any concrete action plan in this regard and to harvest rain water so as to get rid of this problem; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) Ground water monitoring data of CGWB for Pre-Monsoon 2016, compared with decadal mean of pre-monsoon (2006-2015), indicates that out of total wells analyzed, around 65% of the wells are showing decline in ground water levels in various parts of the Country.

Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has informed that the scarcity of drinking water in the Country has occurred due to less rainfall in many parts of the County during last two years, which has resulted in the depletion of ground water table due to inadequate recharge. As most of the rural drinking water supply schemes are based on ground water sources, this has resulted in failure of many such schemes. In addition, inadequate rain has resulted in depletion of water in major storage reservoirs in the Country and this has compounded the problem of water availability for drinking purpose.

(c) & (d) Steps/measures taken by the Central Government for the improving the situation includes:
i. "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" has been prepared, which envisages construction of different types of Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting structures in the Country. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
ii. Special focus is given through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water. In addition, priority has been given for construction of farm ponds in the year 2016-17 to harvest rain water.
iii. One of the major activities under the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaai Yojana (PMKSY), inter-alia, includes rainwater harvesting.
iv. To increase availability of drinking water, the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has suggested all States to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. For creating such sustainability structures, 10 % of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) fund is provided to the States.
v. CGWB has undertaken the Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects during XI Plan under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management & Regulation", in priority areas.
vi. CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. As on March 2016, mapping of 2.28 lakh sq.km area has been achieved.
vii. The Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 State have adopted and enacted suitable legislations in line of Model Bill.
viii. This Ministry has also launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the Country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. 'Jal Gram Yojana' component of 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' envisages selection of two villages in every district, preferably 'over-exploited' or facing acute water scarcity, as 'Jal Grams' to ensure optimum and sustainable utilization of water.
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